

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

WITH

TABULAR RETURNS OF MORTALITY, &c.,

DURING THE YEAR 1905,

BY

T. CUNNINGHAM PENFOLD,


M.B., C.M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT,
1905.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
TO THE
HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,
FOR THE YEAR 1905.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board, I have pleasure in placing before you the Annual Report for the year 1905.

AREA.—The area of the whole District is 200,700·339 Acres. It is sub-divided into the following sub-districts :—

Allendale Sub-district, having an area of	51,832·650 Acres ;
Bywell " " "	50,526·166 Acres ;
Chollerton " " "	50,530·703 Acres ;
Hexham " " "	47,810·820 Acres ;

POPULATION.—The estimated Population of the whole District is 27,882, as compared with 27,762 in 1903. The estimated population of the various sub-districts is as follows :—

Allendale, 4778.	Bywell, 13,349.
Chollerton, 5398.	Hexham, 4357.

DEATHS.—These have numbered 357—169 Males, 188 Females,—as against 471 for the previous year, being a decrease of 114. The death-rate for the year is 12·8 per thousand, as compared with 16·9 per thousand for last year. The deaths of children under one year reached a total of 64, giving an infant mortality rate of 88·8 per thousand.

BIRTHS.—There have been 720 births, as compared with 737 for last year, showing a decrease of 17 in the year. This gives a birth-rate of 25·81 per thousand, the rate for the previous year being 26·4. The births include 366 males and 354 females, 11 of the males and 15 of the females being illegitimate.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Of these there have been reported 232 cases, being a decrease of 255 as compared with the figures for 1904. Of these 232, 111 were in the Bywell sub-district; 41 in the Hexham sub-district; 25 in the Chollerton sub-district; and 55 in the Allendale sub-district. From Infectious Disease, 13 deaths were reported, which is equal to a zymotic death-rate of ·46 per thousand of the population.

TABLE I.

*Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and previous Years.**Name of District—Hexham Rural.*

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Num-ber.	Rate*	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.					Num-ber.	Rate*
				Num-ber.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Num-ber.	Rate*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895 ...	27,266	743	27.7	87	117.09	397	14.5	...	.....	.....	...	...
1896 ...	27,331	737	26.9	73	99	389	14.2	...	.....	.....	...	...
1897 ...	27,395	786	27.2	98	124.68	402	14.6	..	.....	.....	...	...
1898 ...	27,460	674	24.5	102	151.33	441	15.1	...	.....	.....	...	...
1899 ...	27,524	739	26.8	111	150.20	482	17.5	...	.....	.....	...	...
1900 ...	27,589	736	26.6	118	160.32	447	16.2	...	.....	.....	...	...
1901 ...	27,638	715	25.8	120	167.83	431	15.5	...	.....	.....	...	...
1902 ...	27,702	780	28.2	73	93.58	419	15.1	...	.....	.....	...	...
1903 ..	27,762	691	24.8	89	128.65	455	16.3	1	.....	12	467	16.8
1904 ...	27,822	737	26.4	110	149.2	466	16.7	1	.....	5	471	16.9
Averages for years 1895—1904	27,548	733	26.4	98	134.18	432	15.5	1	.....	8	469	16.8
1905 ...	27,882	720	25.8	64	88.8	356	12.7	2	.. ..	1	357	12.7

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—200,700.339 Acres.

Total Population at all ages, 27,638	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses, 7,141	
Average number of persons per house, 4	

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
Nil.	<p>Royal Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne</p> <p>Northumberland County Asylum, Morpeth</p> <p>Union Workhouse, Hexham.</p>	Cottage Hospital, Corbridge
Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.		

TABLE II.
Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1905 and previous years.
Name of District—Hexham Rural.

Names of Localities.	Allendale Sub-District.				Bywell Sub-District.				Chollerton Sub-District.				Hexham Sub-District.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths at all ages.
1895 ...	4955	107	82	12	12553	400	200	56	5445	141	81	12	4313	93	34	7
1896 ...	4925	104	89	8	12654	423	169	49	5435	136	72	9	4317	94	59	7
1897 ...	4895	114	91	12	12755	440	181	66	5425	141	74	14	4320	91	56	6
1898 ...	4865	103	87	13	12856	380	209	66	5415	105	81	19	4324	86	64	5
1899 ...	4836	132	93	22	12957	385	240	69	5405	126	74	10	4326	96	57	8
1900 ...	4867	123	88	15	13058	411	234	81	5396	127	67	15	4328	75	58	7
1901 ...	4778	101	79	15	13159	408	214	80	5387	119	67	14	4314	87	71	13
1902 ...	4778	111	85	9	13221	444	212	49	5380	122	57	6	4323	103	65	9
1903 ...	4778	105	71	6	13279	390	263	63	5373	99	71	10	4332	97	62	10
1904 ...	4778	106	78	8	13319	405	240	79	5383	134	74	12	4342	92	74	11
Averages of Years 1895 to 1904.	4839	110	84	12	12981	406	216	65	5404	125	71	12	4323	91	60	8
1905 ...	4778	111	69	7	13349	399	158	41	5398	104	53	7	4357	106	76	9

TABLE III.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905.
Name of District—Hexham Rural.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages.—Years.				Allendale Sub-district.	Bywell Sub-district.	Chollerton Sub-district.	Hexham Sub-district.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upw'd.		
Small-pox.....	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	56	...	9	28	11	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	38	...	...	2	8	21	7	5	3
Scarlet Fever	118	...	27	67	17	7	...	17	28
Enteric Fever	15	...	...	7	2	6	...	...	6
Continued Fever...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Totals ...	232	...	36	106	38	45	7	25	41

Isolation Hospital—Edgewell, Prudhoe-on-Tyne, to which, during 1905, seven cases have been removed, all from Bywell Sub-district.
Small-pox Hospital—Lightcote, Dipton Wood.

TABLE IV.

*Causes of, and Ages at, Death during 1905.**Name of District—Hexham Rural.*

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoining ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.				Total Deaths whether of Residents or "Non-residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	
Measles	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...
Scarlet fever	3	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...
Whooping-cough	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Diphtheria and membranous croup	4	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...
Enteric fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Apoplexy	20	...	...	...	...	10	10	6	8	3	3	...
Bright's disease	8	...	...	1	...	3	4	2	3	3	...	...
Diarrhoea	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
Enteritis	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
Other septic diseases	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis	24	...	...	1	4	10	...	4	14	4	2	...
Other tubercular diseases	38	14	10	3	2	8	1	0	20	4	2	...
Cancer, malignant disease	19	...	...	...	...	7	12	2	0	4	7	...
Bronchitis	13	2	2	...	...	2	7	4	4	4	1	...
Pneumonia	29	3	3	...	...	7	10	8	11	3	7	...
Pleurisy	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...
Alcoholism	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of liver	20	19	1	...	...	...	...	2	14	...	4	...
Premature birth	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	7	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	5	...	2	...
Heart diseases	57	...	...	...	1	15	41	10	10	7	24	1
Accidents	11	...	...	...	2	8	1	1	3	3	4	1
Suicides	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	2	...	...	...
Senile decay	30	...	...	...	...	1	29	0	18	4	2	...
Convulsions	11	9	2	...	...	...	...	2	7	1	1	...
All other causes	36	1	1	1	4	11	12	11	10	8	7	...
All causes	356	62	29	9	13	106	137	69	158	53	70	2

TABLE V.

*Hexham Rural District.***INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1905.**

*Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months
under One Year of Age.*

Cause of Death.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes.	Certified	15	3	5	..	23	10	3	4	2	4	5	1	2	3	4	2	63
	Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
<i>Common Infectious Diseases :</i>																		
Measles	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
Whooping Cough	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Diarrhoeal Diseases :</i>																		
Diarrhoea, all forms	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Enteritis	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
<i>Wasting Diseases :</i>																		
Premature Birth	...	3	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Congenital Defects	...	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
<i>Tuberculous Diseases :</i>																		
Tuberculosis Meningitis	...	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
Tuberculous Peritonitis	...	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	10
Convulsions	...	3	2	1	..	6	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	9
Bronchitis	...	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Pneumonia	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	3
Other Causes	...	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Debility from Birth	..	7	..	2	..	9	5	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	18
		15	3	5	..	23	10	3	4	2	4	5	1	2	3	4	3	64

Births in the Year—Legitimate, 694; Illegitimate, 26.

Population, estimated to middle of 1905, 27,882.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 356.

1905.

PLANS APPROVED OF AT THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS.

January 3rd.

Plans of stables, harness room, etc., at Oaklands, Riding Mill, for J. O. Scott, Esq., were submitted and approved.

Plans of new outoffices, at the Schools, Ovington, for the County Education Committee, were submitted and approved.

Plans of stables, urinal, etc., at the Mason's Arms, Ovington, for Mr. Bedlington, Brewery, Ovingham, were submitted and approved.

Plans of four houses and shop at Branch End, Stocksfield, for Mr. Wright, Painshawfield, were submitted and approved.

Plans of a house at Birches Nook, Stocksfield, for Mr. Fairless, were submitted and approved.

February 7th.

Plans of two cottages at Apperley Dene, Stocksfield, for Brodrick Dale, Esq., were submitted and approved.

Plans of amended sewer at St. Helen's Lane, Corbridge, for Messrs. Smith & Jameson, per Messrs. W. Dixon & Sons, Architects, were submitted and approved.

Plans for re-building a house at Princes Street, Corbridge—owner, Mr. Dorin, Hexham—were submitted and approved.

Plans of a villa, lodge, stables, coach house, etc., at Aydon Road, Corbridge, for J. A. Dixon, Esq., were submitted and approved.

March 7th.

Plans of amended site for Temperance Hall, Leadgate, Allendale Town—owners, the trustees—were submitted and approved.

Plans of farm house, at Frost Hall, Allendale, for Mrs. Lee, Lipwood Hall, Haydon Bridge, were submitted and approved.

Plans of a house and shop at Birches Nook, Stocksfield, for Messrs. G. Watson & Son, Builders, were submitted and approved.

Plans of a villa at Painshawfield, Stocksfield, for Messrs. Geo. Watson & Son, were submitted and approved.

Plans of two semi-villas at White House, Main Road West, North Wylam, for Mr. J. Davidson, were submitted and approved.

Plans of two houses at Heugh House Lane, Haydon Bridge, for Mr. P. Johnstone, were submitted and approved.

Plans of additions to a cottage at Stotsfold, Hexhamshire, for the Misses Mounsey, Hendon Hill, Sunderland, were submitted and approved.

April 4th.

Plans of new outoffices at Mickley School, for the County Education Committee, Newcastle-on-Tyne, were submitted and approved.

Plans of a cottage at The Riding, Hexham, for C. W. C. Henderson, Esq., were submitted and approved.

Plans of additions to a cottage at Barrasford—owner, the Duke of Northumberland—were submitted and approved.

Plans of an entrance lodge at Ravenstone, Corbridge, for D. Stephens, Esq., were submitted and approved.

Plans of two semi-villas and one villa at Wylam Wood Estate, South Wylam, for Mr. Straughan, were submitted and approved.

May 2nd.

Plans of additions to a house at the Bank, Prudhoe—owner, Mr. Forster, Thorncliffe House, Prudhoe, were submitted and approved.

Plans of two semi-villas at Painshawfield, Stocksfield, for Messrs. F. & J. Thomson, were submitted and approved.

Plans of additions and alterations to a house at South Farm, Corbridge—owner, B. Ridley, Esq.—were submitted and approved.

May 31st.

Plans for additions to a villa at Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for M. J. Adams, Esq., Red House, Stocksfield, were submitted and approved.

Plans for a W.C. at Main Street, Corbridge—owner, Mr. Turnbull—were submitted and approved.

Plans for additions and alterations to the schools at Prudhoe, for His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, were submitted and approved.

Plans for sanatorium, caretaker's house, and stable, near Barrasford, per Messrs. Nicholson & Dotchin, Architects, were submitted and approved.

Plans for three houses at Main Street, West End, Prudhoe, for Mr. Gair, Beech Cottages, Prudhoe, were submitted and approved.

Plans of additions and alterations to two cottages at Holly Hall Farm, Sandhoe, for J. H. Cuthbert, Esq., Beaufront, Hexham, were submitted and approved.

June 28th.

Plans of W.C. at the Angel Inn, Corbridge, for the Newcastle Breweries Co., Ltd., per Mr. Davidson, Builder, Corbridge, were submitted and approved.

Plans of additions to a cottage at West Mill Hills Farm, Haydon Bridge, for the Exors. of the late J. E. Rogerson, Esq., per W. E. Davidson, Land Agent, Haydon Bridge, were submitted and approved.

Plans for two earthclosets at the Baptist Chapel, Stocksfield, for the Trustees, per Messrs. W. Dixon & Son, Architects, Newcastle-on-Tyne, were submitted and approved.

Plans of additions and alterations to the Inn, Barrasford—owner, His Grace the Duke of Northumberland,—per Mr. Temperley, Castle Estate Office, Alnwick, were submitted and approved.

Plans of a scullery at Farnley Grange Lodge, Corbridge—owner, Farquhar Laing, Esq.—were submitted and approved.

Plans for re-building Newbiggin Hall, near Blanchland, for J. Joicey, Esq., Blenkinsopp Hall, Haltwhistle, per Messrs. Wilkinson & Crowley, Architects, were submitted and approved.

Plans for two cottages at Walwick Road End, Fourstones, for Wm. Benson, Esq., Allerwash, were submitted and approved.

Plans of attics at house in Princes Street, Corbridge, for Mr. Dorin, Builder, Corbridge, were submitted and approved.

Plans of three houses at the Bank, Prudhoe, for Mr. George Hall, Chapel Row, Prudhoe Castle, were submitted and approved.

July 28th.

Plans of two houses at Main Street, East End, Prudhoe—owners, Messrs. Jordon & Pulkinhorn, Prudhoe-on-Tyne—were submitted and approved.

Plan of a main drain near sewage disposal works, North Side, Haydon Bridge—owners, the N.E.R. Co.—per C. Harrison, Esq., were submitted and approved.

Plans of three pairs of semi-villas at the Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield—owner, M. J. Adams, Esq., were submitted and approved.

Plans of workshops on site near Birches Nook, Stocksfield, for G. Watson & Son, Builders, were submitted and approved.

Plans of additions to a cottage at Whiteside, Riding Mill, for Mr. T. Johnson, were submitted and approved.

Plans of two semi-villas at Wylam Wood Estate, for Mr. Strachan, Builder, were submitted and approved.

Plans of house at Stephenson's Terrace, North Wylam—owner, Mr. W. Appleby, North Wylam, were submitted and approved.

September 20th.

Plans for two semi-villas at Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Mr. J. Davidson, were submitted and approved.

Plans for class-rooms at Mickley Parish Hall, for Rev. T. Stenhouse, Mickley Vicarage, were submitted and approved.

Plans for additions to Whiteside Cottage, Broomhaugh, for Miss Grey, The Riding, Riding Mill, were submitted and approved.

Plans of sixteen houses at Stephenson Terrace, North Wylam, for Col. Blackett, and others, per Mr. Bedlington, Architect, were submitted and approved.

Plans of a house at Corchester Avenue, Corbridge, for Mr. Johnstone, Corbridge, were submitted and approved.

Plans of a house at the East End, Humshaugh, for Mr. Towers, Parker Grove, Humshaugh, were submitted and approved.

October 18th.

Plans of a cottage at the Laverick, Fourstones, for C. E. Straker, Esq., High Warden, Hexham, were submitted and approved.

Plans of out-offices and drainage at Willow Gap, Fourstones-on-Tyne, for W. D. Cruddas, Esq., were submitted and approved.

Plans of out-offices and improvements at Acomb Schools, for the Northumberland Education Committee, Newcastle-on-Tyne, were submitted and approved.

Plans for converting an archway into a store and cloak room, Station Road, Corbridge, for Mr. Davidson, Builder, Corbridge, were submitted and approved.

November 14th.

Plans for two semi-villas at Branch End, Stocksfield, for Mrs. S. Little, were submitted and approved.

Plans for a reading room at Gunnerton, Barrasford, for Rev. E. W. Eyre, The Vicarage, Chollerton, were submitted and approved.

December 13th.

Plans of four houses at Birches Nook, Stocksfield, for Mr. Fairless, Painshawfield, Stocksfield, were submitted and approved.

Plans of two houses at Ridley Mill, Stocksfield, for R. Wallis, Esq., were submitted and approved.

Plans of two houses at the Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Mr. Cowen, were submitted and approved.

Plans of stable and out-offices at Florist Hall, Wylam, for Col. Blackett, were submitted and approved.

Plans of four houses at the Wylam Wood Estate, S. Wylam, for Mr. Strachan, were submitted and approved.

Plans of a house at Fornerstead Road, Allendale Town, for Mr. S. Noble, Carshield, were submitted and approved.

NUISANCES, &c,

The following Notices have been issued to Owners and Occupiers, during the Year, by the Sanitary Inspector :

To Provide proper drainage to premises	20
„ Open out and relay choked drains	13
„ Trap inlets to drains and sewers	11
„ Trap waste water pipes	4
„ Cement, pave, and repair defective yard surfaces ...	10
„ Cleanse, cement, and drain urinals	7
„ Relay floors, and drain stables, byres, and piggeries ...	21
„ Properly cleanse cesspits and open channels	27
„ Disconnect rain-water down pipes from drains ...	1
„ Cease depositing liquid matter into ashpits	29
„ Provide manure pits to premises	2
„ Remedy dampness in dwelling houses	10
„ Repair roofs of houses	3
„ Provide ventilation to drains	2
„ Cleanse piggeries, byres, stables, &c.	25
„ Provide w.c., f.c., or privy accommodation	3
„ Cease depositing ashes and other refuse on or by the side of public roads	17
„ Remove offensive slaughter house refuse from premises	11
„ Repair delapidated privies and ashpits	19
„ Cement floors and walls of ashpits and privies ...	15
„ Properly ventilate ashpits and privies	2
„ Thoroughly cleanse and limewash walls of outoffices ...	45
„ Ventilate main sewers	2
„ Provide and fix rain-water spouting to dwelling houses	17
„ Remove outlets of drains from the side of public roads ...	2
„ Properly cleanse underground sinks	19
„ Connect drains to main sewers	13
„ Remove offensive accumulation of refuse from premises	40
„ Repair defective water cisterns	1
„ Disconnect waste water pipes from drainage	3
„ Protect water supply	2
„ Fix inlets to drains on the outside of buildings ...	3
„ Cleanse manure pits	19
„ Supply urinals with water for flushing purposes ...	1
„ Cease depositing slop-water on yard and private road premises	21
„ Extend outlets of drains	5
„ Cease depositing ashpit refuse too near dwelling houses	43
„ Provide proper doors and coverings to ashpits ...	13
„ Repair defective water fittings	3
„ Remove ashpits and privies adjoining dwelling houses ...	2

To lime-wash walls, &c., of premises	...	...	...	30
„ Cleanse cesspools near dwellings	...	...	..	39
„ Remove overflow pipe from cesspools	...	...	...	1
„ Cleanse open sewers	...	...	...	5
„ Properly cleanse public watering places	...	...	...	2
„ Cleanse rain-water spouts	...	...	...	5
„ Repair sewer outlets	...	...	...	1
Cases of disinfectants given out	...	...	...	437
Schools, dwelling houses, bedding, furniture, &c., disinfected				
and fumigated	...	...	...	201
Drains tested by smoke test or otherwise	..	...	...	81
Drains found defective	...	...	...	19

During the year 1905, 85 new houses have been occupied.

Part of Main Sewers have been relaid and extended at Allendale, Prudhoe, Corbridge, Mickley, Eltringham, and Prudhoe Castle.

DAIRIES.

There are 77 registered Dairies in the Union, three more than last year's number.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These have been visited at various times by the Sanitary Inspector, and found generally to be kept in a clean state. Any improvements of a sanitary nature were at once carried out.

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

During the year, and over the whole district, there have been 23 deaths, which have not been registered in the usual way. On 15 of these Inquests were held, whilst on the remaining 8 an Inquest was considered unnecessary by the coroner.

On the 15 Inquests held,

- 3 were in the Chollerton sub-district ;
- 5 were in the Hexham sub-district ;
- 7 were in the Bywell sub-district.

The causes of deaths were as follows:—Burns, 1 ; Convulsions, 2 ; Heart disease, 2 ; Suicides, 4 ; Senile decay, 1 ; Killed on railway, 3 ; Drowned accidentally, 2 ; Death by falls, 4 ; Suffocated, 1 ; Death from exposure, 1 ; Apoplexy, 2.

*Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1905,
for the Rural District of Hexham.*

*Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces,
and Homework.*

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions
<i>Factories</i> (Including Factory Laundries).	65	7	.....
<i>Workshops</i> (Including Workshop Laundries).	109	23	.....
<i>Workplaces</i> ... ..	.....	.....	.....
<i>Homeworkers' Premises</i> ... ..	.....	.....	.....
<i>Total</i>	174	30	.....

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	31	31	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	2	2	...	...
Other nuisances	13	13	..	...
Sanitary accommodation—				
{ insufficient	1	1	...	...
{ unsuitable or defective ... ..	...	...	...	...
{ not separate for sexes ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ..	..	...	...	...
<i>Total</i>	47	47	...	...

3. OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Work- shop Act (s. 133) .....	.....
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (s. 5) —	
Notified by H.M. Inspector .....	.....
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors	.....
Other .....	.....
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):—	
Certificates granted during the year .....	.....
In use at the end of the year .....	.....
Homework : —	Number of
<i>List of Outworkers*</i> (s. 107) :	<i>Lists.</i> <i>Outworkers</i>
Lists received .....	.....
Addresses of outworkers	forwarded to other Authorities
	received from other Authorities
<i>Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :—</i>	<i>Wearing Apparel ;</i> <i>Other</i>
Notice prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (s. 108) .....	.....
Cases of Infectious disease notified in homeworkers' premises .....	.....
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (s. 110) .....	.....
Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year	73
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here	
Total number of workshops on Register	73

Smallpox.—Only one case of Smallpox has occurred during the past year, as compared with 13 cases during the previous year. This case was infected at Whitley Bay. As the patient's home was in an isolated position, it was considered unnecessary to remove her to the hospital, the other inmates of the house having been re-vaccinated.

Continued Fever.—One case of Continued Fever has been reported during the year, and that from Bywell sub-district.

Erysipelas.—The Erysipelas cases numbered 38, and were distributed throughout all four sub-districts. For the most part they were very mild, no fatal cases being recorded. 29 were in the Bywell sub-district—at Horsley, 3; Prudhoe, 6; Mickley, 5; West Wylam, 3; Ovington, 3; Stocksfield, 2; Ovingham, 1; Eltringham, 1; Hedley, 1; Shotley, 1; Riding Mill, 1; Wylam, 2. 3 were in the Hexham sub-district at Corbridge. 5 were in the Chollerton sub-district—1 each at Nunwick, Wark, Warden, Fourstones, and Humshaugh. 1 was in the Allendale sub-district at Haydon Bridge.

Measles.—All over the district, Measles has been very prevalent this year, no fewer than nine school closures having taken place from this cause. The places chiefly affected have been Hedley, Mickley, Horsley, Newbrough, Corbridge, Allendale, and Haydon Bridge, and 4 deaths have been attributed to this disease.

Whooping Cough.—There has been but little Whooping Cough during the past year, and only 1 death has been caused thereby. The districts chiefly affected have been Prudhoe, Stocksfield, and Newbrough.

Diarrhœa.—Only 3 deaths have been caused by Diarrhœa this year, as compared with 26 last year, and these were all in children under one year of age. The decrease from the figures of last year is chiefly to be attributed to the fact that the summer of 1905 was much cooler than that of the preceding year.

Scarlet Fever.—A great decrease in the amount of Scarlet Fever reported has taken place this year. Last year there were 287 cases, and this year 118, showing a diminution of 169. Cases were reported from all four sub-districts, 53 being from Allendale; 28 from Hexham; 20 from Bywell; and 17 from Chollerton. The deaths resulting from this disease were 3 in number, 1 being in Allendale Town, and 2 in Corbridge. It will be seen that nearly half of the total number of cases were reported from the Allendale district, where it has lingered more or less during the whole year. The first case was clearly an im-

ported one. School closure was resorted to twice during the year, and the disease seems to be to a large extent quiescent at present. A single case of Scarlet Fever occurring in the school-house at Whitley Chapel, necessitated the closure of the school there for three weeks.

Diphtheria and Membranous Group.—The number of notifications of the above continue to show a steady decline. There were 56 cases this year, as compared with 98 during 1904, and 244 during 1903. Each of the four sub-districts had its own share of cases, although, as might be expected, the Bywell sub-district showed the heaviest incidence of the disease. The following table shows the number of cases and deaths in each sub-district:—

<i>Sub-districts.</i>	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Allendale	1	—
Bywell	48	1
Chollerton	3	—
Hexham	4	3
	<hr/> 56	<hr/> 4

This gives a case mortality rate of 7·4 per thousand, as compared with a corresponding rate of 153 per thousand last year. I believe the action of the Council in supplying Antitoxin free, has largely contributed to a great decline in the death-rate of this disease. Only one school required to be closed for this disease, and that was at Mickley, where a case broke out in the school-house. Only one extensive epidemic occurred during the year. It was an interesting case by reason of the fact that its origin was distinctly traced to an infected milk supply; and a bacteriological examination of swabbings from the throats of those living at the incriminated farm house, showed them to be swarming with living Diphtheria Bacilli.

Enteric Fever.—15 cases of Enteric Fever have been reported this year, 9 occurring in the Bywell sub-district, and 6 in the Hexham sub-district. Of the latter, 5 occurred in one house in Main Street, Corbridge, and 1 in Hill Street. In the Bywell sub-district, 6 cases were in one house in West Wylam, one of which proved fatal; 1 was at Ovington; 1 at Stocksfield; and 1 at Prudhoe. It will be seen that 11 of these 15 cases occurred in two houses. Some of them were certainly infected by cases already in the house, showing the great need there is for educating public opinion on the advisability of removing the patient immediately to an isolation hospital. By taking a few simple precautions, the danger of the nurse being infected by the typhoid patient can be almost entirely obviated. An important factor in tending to spread enteric is these open privy middens, especially when the scavenging of the same is

not done as frequently and thoroughly as is necessary. Section 36 of the Public Health Act states that "If a house within the district of a local authority appears to such authority by the report of their surveyor to be without . . . an ash-pit furnished with proper doors and coverings, the local authority shall, by written notice, require the owner or occupier of the house provide within a reasonable time therein specified . . . an ash-pit furnished as aforesaid."

Puerperal Fever.—It is satisfactory to note that of the three cases none have proved fatal.

School Closure.—The following Schools were closed during the year for the periods and causes named :—

<i>School.</i>	<i>Closed.</i>	<i>Cause.</i>
Hedley	... 9th Jan. to 16th Jan.	... Measles.
Allendale	... 7th Feb. to 27th Feb.	... Scarlet Fever.
Mickley	... 27th Feb. to 27th Mar.	Measles.
Allendale	... 21st March to 10th April	Scarlet Fever.
Corbridge	... 22nd Mar. to 17th April	Measles.
Mickley	... 27th Mar. to 10th April	Measles.
Horsley	... 5th April to 26th April	Measles.
Newbrough	... 19th May to 12th June	Measles.
Mickley	... 4th Sept. to 2nd Oct.	... Diphtheria.
Allendale	... 13th Sept. to 29th Sept.	Measles.
Lillswood	... 25th Sept. to 9th Oct.	... Mumps.
Whitley Chapel	... 30th Oct. to 20th Nov.	Scarlet Fever.
Newbrough	... 2nd Nov. to 20th Nov.	... Whooping Cough and Measles.
Haydon Bridge	... 19th Dec. to 8th Jan.	... Measles.

Sewerage.—Very considerable improvement has been done in the way of providing better sewerage systems in various parts of the district. Sewers and sewerage works have been completed at Mickley, Eltringham, on the south side of Corbridge Station, and at Prudhoe Castle, while the contract for Ovingham Sewerage Work has been let. A scheme has been prepared for sewers and sewage disposal works at the village of Hedley-on-the-Hill, and negotiations for land are proceeding. Something of a radical nature requires to be done to abate the long-standing nuisance at New Ridley, due to the accumulation of sewage, etc., in the open sewer on the north side of the road from New Ridley to Branch End. It has been suggested to pipe this in for 200 yards east. This would no doubt be a much better plan than that obtaining at present, since it would take the sewage further away from the dwellings, but the ideal course would be to obtain land for the erection of a small disposal works. This nuisance has now grown venerable, coming up year after year, chiefly owing to difficulties in the way of obtaining land. As it causes extreme annoyance to those living near, I venture to hope that before long the difficulties will be overcome, and a proper sewer and disposal works put in. Another matter which

may be mentioned in this connection, is the open sewer in the Church Dene, Allendale Town. The Parochial Committee propose to cover this in for a distance of 50 yards at present, and further work will be done in extending this sewer as occasion requires. ACOMB. — Nothing practically has been done to cope with the sewerage and sewage disposal at this village, several terraces being without any drainage whatever.

Water Supply. —At Painshawfield, the deficient arrangements for the above, mentioned in last year's report, have been surmounted by the extension of the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. Householders now have the opportunity of a supply of water from this company, whose source and quality are above suspicion. At High Mickley, a scheme has been prepared, and the various owners approached as to the apportionment of the cost. It is probable that a good scheme for this neighbourhood will shortly be carried out. The question of the Haydon Bridge water supply is still with us. Numerous attempts to grapple with the difficulties here have been made, only to be abandoned on account of their excessive cost. The question is, whether is it preferable to have an addition of a few pence in the pound to the rates, or to go on with a very inadequate water supply, and it is a question which the rate-payers must themselves settle. I honestly believe the doing of this work, even if costly in the first place, would in the long run be a real economy. It is merely repeating a truism to say that a plentiful supply of pure water is an absolute necessity for health and cleanliness.

Dwellings. —During the past year, 85 new dwellings have been erected. Although isolated cases of overcrowding continue to be met with, this is much less acute than was the case a few years ago. Most of the building work has been done in the eastern portion of the district, especially in the neighbourhood of Branch End, Stocksfield, and Wylam.

Schools. I directed the Council's attention last year to the unsatisfactory condition of High Prudhoe School. This has been vastly improved, and is now, as regards lighting, drainage, adequate air space, and heating, in a satisfactory condition. At Corbridge School, nothing has been done. Both this school and the schools at Wylam and Hedley-on-the Hill are overcrowded and badly ventilated. Further details as to the conditions at the latter, will be laid before the Sanitary Committee shortly, and I trust that the efforts of the Council will result in radical improvements at these schools. In their present condition, each of them is very detrimental to the health of the children confined in them.

Hospital Accommodation.—A splendid Smallpox Hospital has been erected at Lightwater. The site, water supply, and other arrangements are admirable, and this hospital renders us well-prepared to cope with any sudden outbreaks of Smallpox which may occur. The smaller hospital at Edgewell has also proved itself very useful on occasion.

Factory and Workshop Act.—This district, as I have remarked before, is but slightly affected by this Act. The work done by your officials is shown in tabular form elsewhere. Periodical inspections of workshops show that very few workers in this district labour under conditions inimical to health. We have very generally found employers willing to carry out any improvements required.

Scavenging.—With the exception of those living within the Prudhoe scavenging area, the occupier is the person responsible for the scavenging in this district. In the Prudhoe neighbourhood this work is done by contract, and the present contractor has done the work well on the whole, certainly much better than his predecessor. In some parts of the district refuse tips are badly needed.

GENTLEMEN,

This report must, I think, be considered a very satisfactory one. The low death-rate, the very low infant mortality rate, the improvements effected in the various schools, and the large amount of much-needed sewerage which has been done during the past year, show that the Council have been actively engaged during 1905 in furthering the public-health interests of the people.

I must again thank Mr. John Scott, the chairman of the council, and all the other members, for the uniform courtesy and help extended to the sanitary officials. Mr. S. Pearson has again presided over the deliberations of the Sanitary Committee with his accustomed business ability, whilst the clerk, Mr. J. H. Nicholson, and his assistant, Mr. Hamilton, are always ready to help in every possible way. I have also derived much assistance from the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Waugh.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. C. PENFOLD, M.B.

